

# Margaret E. Everson

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## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

### Chief Policy Officer

DUCKS UNLIMITED, WASHINGTON, DC

*December 2014–present*

Plan, direct, and oversee all policies and strategies relating to every phase of government relations in Ducks Unlimited's conservation efforts. Serve on the executive leadership team and directly oversee a multimillion dollar department budget along with providing executive oversight of an organizational budget of more than \$200 million. Analyze proposed legislation and regulations for possible impacts on the organization's mission and influence their content to maximize appropriations and other conservation benefits. Manage a geographically dispersed team of federal and regional government-relations professionals. Grow department and organizational strength through corporate-sustainability partners, foundations, major donor gifts, and government funding. Develop and maintain collaborative partnerships with a diverse range of environmental and conservation groups, and currently serve as chair of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners (AWCP). Maintain longstanding relationships with top-ranked senior career and political administration members along with key congressional members and their staff. Lead scientifically sound policy efforts at the community, state, regional, and national levels that utilize wetlands for clean water in rural and urban areas and protect communities from flooding and saltwater intrusion. Partner internationally with counterparts in Canada and Mexico to further sustainable wetlands and water policies throughout North America. Collaborate with board members and trustees to expand their understanding, participation, and support of policy initiatives, mobilizing them and their networks to further nature-based conservation. Extensive public-speaking engagements include representing Ducks Unlimited at national and state conventions, conferences, and meetings as a panelist and keynote speaker.

### Principal

EVERSON CONSULTING, ALEXANDRIA, VA

*February 2014–December 2014*

Advised state agencies, nongovernmental entities, and industry on wildlife, conservation, and natural-resource matters. Provided insight and guidance to clients on the executive branch, as well as the federal regulatory and legislative processes. Supplied strategic advice on communications and outreach strategies on a wide range of issues related to wildlife and conservation initiatives, including the Endangered Species Act, and water resource concerns. Drafted regulatory responses on behalf of clients, provided insight on the impacts that proposed amendments may have on states' and industries' interests and activities. Recommended strategic partnerships and connected decision-makers in federal, state, and local governments with nongovernmental and industry leaders.

### Assistant Attorney General

OFFICE OF THE KENTUCKY ATTORNEY GENERAL, FRANKFORT, KY

*December 2008–February 2014*

Represented the office of the Kentucky attorney general in environmental and natural-resource issues including mining, public nuisances, the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act. Served as general counsel for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR). Managed complex litigation with internal and external counsel and represented KDFWR in state

courts at both the appellate- and lower-court levels. Testified on pending legislation to state senate and house committees and represented KDFWR before the Administrative Regulation Review Subcommittee. Advised clients on U.S. Constitutional issues including the First and Second Amendments and the Endangered Species Act. counseled clients on day-to-day issues pertaining to federal, state, and local laws including regarding property rights, biodiversity, wildlife trafficking, personnel issues, and law enforcement. Managed legal research and coordinated staff to support litigation and legislative outreach. Served as a representative on the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies legal committee, endangered species committee, and the ESA joint task force working group.

**Counselor to the Director**

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, WASHINGTON, DC

*January 2005–November 2008*

Represented the Fish and Wildlife Service's position on natural-resource conservation issues in discussions with the Department of the Interior, other departments and federal agencies, Congress, state governments, and nongovernmental organizations. Managed and coordinated issues relating to the service's policies, the Endangered Species Act, the Freedom of Information Act, the Administrative Procedure Act, and other national and international programmatic priorities of the director. Served as the Fish and Wildlife Service's representative on the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument plan. Represented the Fish and Wildlife Service on American Bar Association panels and on the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' legal committees.

**Attorney/Adviser**

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, DC

*October 2003–January 2005*

Provided legal analysis and policy recommendations for the department and its agencies pertaining to restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem and the Everglades. Worked with Interior agencies to implement the requirements of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Water Resources Development Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Freedom of Information Act, and Endangered Species Act. Assisted federal agencies and the state of Florida on Everglades-related rulemaking. Received departmental STAR award for outstanding job performance.

**Policy Analyst**

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, DC

*December 2001–September 2003*

Provided policy recommendations, legal analysis, and technical evaluations for the department and its agencies on scientific reports, pending legislation, and court decisions pertaining to restoration of the South Florida ecosystem and the Everglades. Prepared testimony for congressional oversight hearings for senior department officials, including the secretary of the interior and the deputy secretary. Worked with the Army Corp of Engineers, the state of Florida, and local governments on negotiations to implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

**Legal Fellow**

SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE, MAJORITY STAFF, WASHINGTON, DC

*January 2000–May 2000*

Drafted legislation, congressional reports, and legal memorandums. Met with constituents and advocacy groups to discuss proposed legislation on the Conservation and Reinvestment Act, Striped Bass Act, and other wildlife and conservation issues.

**Resource Specialist**

ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES (AFWA), WASHINGTON, DC

*December 1996–August 1998*

Tracked, analyzed, and provided comment on national fish and wildlife resource-management, conservation, and legislative issues for the state fish and wildlife agencies. Wrote and coordinated successful U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administrative grants in sport fish and wildlife restoration. Analyzed federal legislation, including the Transportation Equity Act (TEA 21), for AFWA committees.

**EDUCATION**

VERMONT LAW SCHOOL, SOUTH ROYALTON, VT

*August 1998–May 2001*

Juris doctor

SAINT FRANCIS COLLEGE, LORETTO, PA

*September 1992–May 1996*

Bachelor of science in biology, with a concentration in marine biology

**LEGAL AFFILIATIONS**

- Admitted to the Maryland State Bar
- Admitted to the Kentucky State Bar
- Admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States Bar

**PUBLICATIONS**

- Co-author of *North American Wildlife Policy and Law*, Boon & Crockett (expected publication date summer 2018)
- Authored a college textbook chapter on federal environmental legislation and the federal environmental regulatory structure in *Environmental Crime: Enforcement, Policy, and Social Responsibility*